Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 00735 201910Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W
----------086078 211114Z /23
R 201900Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3186
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 00735

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SP
SUBJECT: GOVT LEGALIZES ETA-LINKED BASQUE PARTY

1. SUMMARY. THE GOS HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME LEGALIZED A REGIONAL PARTY WHICH CALLS PUBLICLY FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN. THIS WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION WHICH OBVIOUSLY WILL RAISE HACKLES IN SOME QUARTERS, BUT IT WAS FELT TO BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO FURTHER ISOLATE THE BASQUE TERRORIST ETA. END SUMMARY.

2. FOR THE RECORD, THE INTERIOR MINISTRY JAN. 18 LEGALIZED THE "PARTY FOR THE BASQUE REVOLUTION" (EIA), WIDELY LABELED THE "POLITICAL ARM OF ETA." EIA'S LEADERSHIP INCLUDES A NUMBER OF MEN WHO PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PAST MEMBERSHIP IN ETA, SOME OF WHOM, LIKE CURRENT SECGEN MARIO ONAINDIA, WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON AND EXPELLED FROM SPAIN IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE JUNE 1977 ELECTIONS. (EIA PARTICIPATED IN THE ELECTIONS AS PART OF THE "EUZKADIKO EZQUERRA" COALITION WHICH ELECTED ONE DEPUTY (LETAMENDIA) AND ONE SENATOR (BANDRES) IN GUIPUZCOA.) ONAINDIA AND OTHERS FILTERED CLANDESTINELY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 00735 201910Z

BACK INTO SPAIN AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND MADE NUMEROUS HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL PUBLIC APPEARANCES UNTIL THEIR STATUS WAS "REGULARIZED" BY THE FINAL AMNESTY DECREE.

3. EIA HAD APPLIED FOR LEGALIZATION LAST SEPTEMBER, BUT THE GOVT REJECTED ITS APPLICATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PARTY'S STATUTES CALLED FOR BASQUE INDEPENDENCE FROM

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SPAIN. EIA LEADERS EARLY THIS WEEK SUBMITTED NEW STATUTES WHICH CALL MORE AMBIGUOUSLY FOR "THE DISSOLUTION OF THE EXISTING BOURGEOIS STATE APPARATUS IN EUZKADI WITH A VIEW TO THE CONSTITUTION OF A STATE." ALTHOUGH IT WAS MADE CLEAR PUBLICLY THAT THE PARTY STILL ADVOCATES AN "INDEPENDENT AND REUNIFIED EUZKADI, "THE GOVT IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO LEGALIZE THE PARTY. THIS ACTION LEAVES ONLY TWO BASQUE NATIONALIST FAR-LEFT PARTIES--HASI AND LAIA--OUTSIDE THE LAW.

4. THE LEGALIZATION OF EIA WAS PREDICTABLY GREETED WITH MIXED AND INTENSE EMOTIONS, WITH THE FAR-RIGHT AND CONSERVATIVE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CIRCLES PREDICTABLY DEPLORING IT. IN MARKED CONTRAST, HOWEVER, CENTER AND LEFTIST POLITICAL LEADERS, THE OTHER BASQUE PARTIES, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE MADRID PRESS HAVE PRAISED THE GOVT'S DECISION AS A DIFFICULT AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD THE FURTHER ISOLATION OF THE REMAINING ETA EXTREMISTS BY PROVIDING EIA OPEN, LEGAL CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH TO FUNCTION. MADRID'S RESPECTED "EL PAIS" JAN. 20 EXPRESSED GENERAL SENTIMENT WHEN IT STATED THAT, WHILE IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS TO DEMAND THAT EIA AND OTHER BASQUE NATIONALIST GROUPS RENOUNCE THEIR SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE, IT IS NECESSARY TO REQUIRE THEM TO ABANDON VIOLENCE, "BOTH THEORETICALLY AND IN PRACTICE," AND TO SEVER ANY LINKS WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

5. PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER ENRIQUE MUGICA, THE LEADING BASQUE MEMBER OF THE PARTY, TOLD US JAN. 20 THAT THE LEGALIZATION OF EIA WAS ANOTHER STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH IT OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT ABOUT TO RID THE REGION OF TERRORISM. THE BASQUE LUNATIC FRINGE WOULD SIMPLY ACCUSE EIA OF HAVING SOLD OUT TO MADRID, AND CONTINUE ITS TERRORIST ACTS AS BEFORE. MUGICA, WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE PROBABLY WAS IN SOME PERSONAL DANGER BECAUSE OF HIS OFT-EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO BASQUE EXTREMISM, INDICATED HE BELIEVED BASQUE TERRORISM WAS NOW A "CANCER" THE SPANISH BODY POLITIC WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH, AND THAT THE REMAINING HARD CORE OF BASQUE TERRORISTS WOULD DIE AS TERRORISTS. STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID00735
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0836
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780141/aaaabhzg.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0b21c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3741593
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVT LEGALIZES ETA-LINKED BASQUE PARTY
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0b21c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014